

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1999 – HB 2320

February 22, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Coordinator of Elections and the State Election Commission, beginning January 1, 2015, to certify each voter registration system for purchase and use in the state. Requires the Coordinator and Commission, when determining whether a voter registration system may be certified, to consider the history of ethical conduct in the sales of voter registration systems by the manufacturer or seller, and the ability of the manufacturer or seller of voter registration systems to provide adequate professional assistance and service to the counties of the state. Declares that the voter registration list is the property of the county election commission and the state. Establishes that any non-authorized use of voter registration information by a vendor of voter registration systems to constitute a Class B misdemeanor.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent any county will have to modify or replace currently used voter registration systems as a result of this bill, the mandatory increase in local government expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$6,000. Otherwise, the fiscal impact to state or local government is considered not significant.

Assumptions:

- According to the Secretary of State (SOS), there are currently five vendors which provide voter registration systems to counties.
- According to the SOS, there are four counties that have in-house voter registration systems.
- The fiscal impact of this bill is dependent upon several unknown factors such as: the rules and policies that will be proposed by the coordinator of elections to carry out the provisions of this bill; the extent to which the state election commission concurs with any such proposed rules and policies; the extent to which any currently-used voter registration systems will not be certified by the commission and the coordinator as a result of this bill; the extent to which counties will have to replace currently used voter registration systems or make modifications to such systems to make them compatible with state systems operated by the SOS; whether utilizing different vendors, if required, will subject the counties to additional costs; and the cost for any required modifications or replacement of voter registration systems, if required.

- Given the extent of unknown factors, determining a precise fiscal estimate for this bill is difficult. However, and based on information provided by the SOS, counties could incur additional mandatory expenditures if current voter registration systems are not certified. To the extent any county will have to modify or replace currently-used voter registration systems as a result of this bill, the mandatory increase in local government expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$6,000. Otherwise, the fiscal impact to local government is considered not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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